

4. Switzerland is providing search and rescue dog teams. Assistance by other countries is unknown.

5. Anticipated duration of disaster assistance activities is unknown.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 20, 1995.*

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members are recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. EHLERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas [Mrs. LINCOLN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. LINCOLN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. LIPINSKI] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CONSIDERATION OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. ORTON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the balanced budget amendment, which will be coming up later this week and possibly continuing into next week. It is a very critical issue which we will be facing in the Congress, and I feel it important that we discuss it in greater detail than we will have time during the formal debate on the floor of this House to discuss and compare the various amendments which are going to come before us. I will talk about some of the similarities and the differences.

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I recognize that right now going on on network television are the opening

statements of the O.J. Simpson trial. It will take someone who is very dedicated and very interested in the balanced budget issue to actually be watching at this point in time, but I hope that my colleagues are watching and that in fact they and others interested in this debate will get a copy of what I am going to talk about, to analyze the amendments in depth and in detail prior to our debate coming up later this week.

There has been a great deal of debate over whether or not we should balance the budget. I am not going to enter into that debate today. I personally believe that our country balance its budget, that we cannot continue with several hundred billion dollar deficits each year, and that in fact if we fail to balance the budget, at some point in time we will reach an economic crisis wherein devaluation of our currency or hyper inflation rates or high interest rates, some economic meachancism will in fact make up for the problem which we have today in not balancing our budget. So I am not going to focus on that part of the debate.

It has also been argued even by those who agree that we must balance the budget that in fact there are two different ways to do it. One, requiring in the Constitution by amending the language of our Constitution that we must balance the budget. The other is to do it through statutory reform, by changing statutes themselves, changing the budget process itself, so that in fact we might be able to, through the regular committee action and floor action in this body and the other body, that we might be able to agree to a balanced budget.

It is argued that you do not need to amend the Constitution to balance the budget. In fact, that is correct, you do not. But I also believe that by requiring in the Constitution that we must balance our budget, it will give us that additional impetus, the additional force necessary, the commitment necessary, to actually accomplish that balanced budget. So I favor a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, and this discussion is not going to go through the arguments of whether we should or should not file a balanced budget amendment to actually require it.

This is a very serious issue, amending our Constitution. It was created over 200 years ago, and over that time has served us very well and has been amended very few times. In fact, now to change the actual wording in our Constitution is indeed very serious and very critical that we must do it right.

Our first rule in government should be first to do no wrong, to do no harm. We must be certain that the changes we place into our Constitution do not create greater havoc or do greater harm or prevent us from being able to govern this great Nation.

So really the issues I would like to discuss here today come down more to the questions of if we do place into our

Constitution a requirement to balance the budget, what wording should we use and how would in be enforced? What type of enforcement mechanism should we include in the Constitution to require this Government to balance its income and outgo, or its outlays and receipts, was we call it in the various amendments. There are very technical issues and I am going to attempt over the next little while in plain English to outline a comparison of the various amendments that have been filed, so that we can identify where there are similarities and where there are differences.

I plan on focusing on three principal amendments, all three of which have been filed as legislation in this Congress. They are the Barton-Tauzin constitutional amendment, which I believe has the support of the majority leadership in the body. They are also the Schaefer-Stenholm amendment, which is the amendment that has been filed by Senator DOLE, Senator HATCH, and Senator SIMON in the Senate. And also a balanced budget amendment which I have filed in this body, and I would like to compare the three of them.

I would like to analyze the alternative approaches being used in these three different amendments, the approaches and the mechanisms used for enforcement. I would like to identify the differences in these amendments, and there are several. There are some differences in what numbers we are going to be relying upon in balancing the budget. Some of these amendments requires or allow us to use or rely upon estimates of receipts and outlays. Other amendments will require us to deal with actual receipts and outlays. There are significant differences between estimates and actual numbers, and I would like to talk about those.

Also, some of these amendments require the creation of, or do create in the Constitution, a new supermajority requirement for legislative action, while the other relies upon the existing constitutional majorities and the existing supermajority identified in overriding a Presidential veto.

Also the enforcement mechanisms specifically. Some of these, two of these amendments rely upon future implementing legislation in order to set up an enforcement mechanism. The other sets up an enforcement mechanism in the language of the amendment itself.

Also with regard to waiver, two of these amendments allow the Congress to waive the provisions of this article for any year in which the country is in war or military conflict. The other provides a more broad waiver opportunity.

Finally, I would like to outline a possible—rather a probable—constitutional crisis which in fact may be created under the terms and implementation of two of these particular amendments. So those are the things that I would like to talk about.

First of all, let me compare the similarities in these amendments. The